

For complete details read the [Tasmanian Guidelines](#).

Q. What is the Program about?

The Program aims to assist Tasmanian primary producers who wish to access expert advice to undertake carbon farming projects with the aim of entering the carbon market through Programs such as through the Australian Government's Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF).

Q. What is carbon farming?

Carbon farming refers to land management activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGe) from agricultural practices. Primary Producers adopt new practices and technologies on farm that reduce their emissions or to sequester carbon. They can choose to earn carbon credits from these activities through voluntary carbon credit schemes such as the Australian Government's Emissions Reduction Fund. You can find out more about carbon farming and the Australian Roadmap to increase carbon farming activities [here](#)

Q. Who is eligible for the Program?

Applicants must:

- a) Be a property owner, share-farmer or lessee based in Tasmania.
- b) Operate a primary production business as a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company operating and located in Tasmania.
- c) Earn more than 50 percent of their gross income from primary production under normal seasonal circumstances OR Have commenced operating their business between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2021 and expect more than 50 per cent of their gross income will be derived within three years.
- d) Have not received and paid for eligible advice relating to a substantially similar project.

Q. What rebate is being offered?

A rebate \$1 for \$1 of up to \$10 000 (excluding GST) is available to eligible applicants. The rebate is for expenditure on eligible advice from *Approved Advisers* about undertaking carbon farming project/s on their land.

Applicants may consider applying for funding through other programs such as the [Tasmanian Landcare Action Grants Program](#) to support practical on-ground works for sustainable agriculture.

Q. When does the funding for this Program close?

As this is a Pilot Program, it will remain open until all funds are expended. The Program will not be run in rounds, rather applications will be accepted at any time until all funds are expended.

Q. Can anyone provide the carbon farming advice?

No. Only an *Approved Adviser* under this Program can provide advice that is eligible for a rebate. An *Approved Adviser* is a professional who holds the relevant skills, qualifications and experience and has been approved by Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE). Further details on how to apply to become an *Approved Adviser* can be found on the [Fact Sheet – Approved Adviser](#).

Q. Who will be assessing applications?

DPIPWE will assess fully completed applications against the eligibility criteria and in order of receipt. Further information may be requested to assist in assessing the application.

Following receipt of a notice of eligibility (including any conditions the application may need to adhere to) by DPIPWE, the applicant may proceed to access the carbon farming advice from the *Approved Adviser*, as stated in the assessed application and taking into account any conditions from DPIPWE. This advice is then eligible for a rebate.

Q. What is considered eligible advice from an *Approved Adviser*?

Eligible advice must be related to at least one of the following:

- Details about carbon farming including the regulatory framework and approved methods under the voluntary Emissions Reduction Fund.
- Details about the Tasmanian Landcare Action Grants Program, relating to on-ground activities that support carbon farming.
- Details relating to the specific location of the proposed carbon farming project.
- Aggregation projects where a number of smaller landholders 'join together' to create a feasible carbon farming project.
- Details that could influence the decision to participate in a carbon farming project.

Q. What is not considered eligible advice from an *Approved Adviser*?

Verbal advice is not eligible for a rebate. Advice must be received in a written report or letter.

Advice that has not been tailored to the specific needs of the business or property will also not be considered eligible advice for a rebate.

Q. Why do Advisers have to be Approved for farmers to receive advice that is eligible for a rebate under this Program?

Carbon farming is a complex area and this is why DPIPWE is identifying *Approved Advisers*.

This approach has been used successfully by the Queensland Government as part of their Land Restoration Fund. We have mirrored their approach to ensure that the advice received by our primary producers is 'fit for purpose' for their individual farming circumstances and is provided by suitably qualified people.

Primary producers can always access advice from service providers that are not 'Approved' under this Program however this advice will not be eligible for a rebate.

Advisers will receive feedback from DPIPWE as to why they have not been approved under the program (refer [Fact Sheet – Approved Adviser](#)).

Q. Do Advisers have to pay a fee to become an *Approved Adviser* under the Program?

No. There are no fees to apply for or be registered as an *Approved Adviser*.

Q. Do DPIPWE pay *Approved Advisers* to be part of the Program?

No. There will be no payment between DPIPWE and the *Approved Adviser*.

DPIPWE will not pay an Adviser the costs of any training undertaken to become an *Approved Adviser*.

Q. How does a farmer receive reimbursement by DPIPWE under the Program?

The Applicant must submit an application for a rebate under the Scheme. Following a receipt of a notice of eligibility by DPIPWE, the Applicant is advised that they may proceed to access eligible advice.

The Applicant then forwards a copy of the Report from the *Approved Adviser* and a copy of the Invoice from the *Approved Adviser* to DPIPWE for reimbursement.

DPIPWE will not pay an Adviser the costs of any training undertaken to become an *Approved Adviser*.

Q. Are there any activities which are ineligible for a rebate?

Yes. Full details are available in the [Tasmanian Guidelines](#).

Q. If I am planning to plant a new forest on my land and I am required to have a Forest Practices Plan prepared by a Forest Practices Officers, is the cost of the Plan eligible for a rebate under this Program?

Yes. If the Plan has been prepared by a Forest Practice Officer who is listed as an *Approved Adviser* under this Program and fees have historically been charged for the preparation of the Plan. Refer <http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au> to a list of *Approved Advisers*.

Q. What are co-benefits?

Co-benefits of carbon farming are direct positive outcomes associated with carbon farming projects that are additional to the emissions avoided or carbon stored. They can flow from various land sector projects including soil carbon projects or environmental plantings. Environmental co-benefits include improved water quality where restoring riparian vegetation is involved as well as greater biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Q. What happens if the advice I receive indicates that a project through the Australian Government's Emissions Reduction Fund is not feasible but a project focussed on co-benefits is. Will I still receive a rebate for this advice?

Yes. Adopting carbon farming practices and entering into carbon markets needs to be carefully considered. This Pilot Program has been designed to support you seeking advice so that you have an understanding what is right for your property and farming operation.

The advice you receive may mean that for some primary producers, adopting carbon farming practices without entering into carbon markets may be the right decision for them at this point in time.

The Government encourages carbon farming practices on-farm as the co-benefits for reductions in GhGe, improved biodiversity or the landscape that can be delivered as they will provide wider socio-economic benefits to the wider community.

The Tasmanian Landcare Action Grants can be an option for farmers to support land managers investment in on-farm practices.

Q. What are Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GhGe)?

To find out about more about Greenhouse Gas Emissions, click [here](#). You can find out about Tasmania's Greenhouse Gas Emissions and agriculture's contribution [here](#).

Q. What is a carbon credit?

A carbon credit (or offset unit) is a permit that allows a company that holds it to emit a certain amount of carbon dioxide or GhGe. One credit permits the emission of a mass equal to one ton of carbon dioxide equivalent. You can find out more [here](#).

Q. What does carbon offsetting actually mean?

It is an activity which reduces emissions to compensate for emissions made elsewhere. Offsets can be made up of two types of carbon offsets – voluntary (non-regulated offsets allowed under the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard) and compliance (also known as national carbon) markets.

Q. What does a voluntary market mean?

A voluntary market is where individuals and businesses purchase offsets to compensate for their own GhGe without being legally obliged to do so. The [Climate Active Neutral standard for Organisations](#) is a voluntary standard to manage GhGe and achieve carbon neutrality. The Organisation Standard can be used to better understand and manage carbon emissions, to credibly claim carbon neutrality and to seek carbon neutral certification. An offset unit that has been deemed to meet the Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard's offsets integrity principles is defined as an eligible offset unit.

[Climate Active](#) is a partnership between Australian Government and Australian businesses to encourage voluntary climate action. [The Carbon Market Institute](#) provides a [market directory](#) of Aggregators, Project Developers, Offset Retailers, Traders and Auditors.

Q. What does a compliance market mean?

A compliance market is where businesses or other entities are required to offset some carbon to comply with caps on the total amount of GhGe they are legally able to omit.

Q. What carbon markets operate in Australia?

The national carbon markets are administered by the Clean Energy Regulator www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au who administer the [Emissions Reduction Fund](#) which supply Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU) and the [Renewable Energy Target](#) which creates tradable large-scale generation certificates (LGCs) and small-scale technology certificates (STCs).

Voluntary Schemes are primarily driven by voluntary emissions reduction ambition including businesses certifying their actions against the government-backed Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard (formerly known as the National Carbon Offset Standard).

Refer to the Clean Energy Regulator list of State, National and International voluntary and compliance Schemes [here](#).

Q. What does carbon neutral mean?

'Carbon Neutral' and 'net zero' are often used interchangeably however they are slightly different.

Carbon Neutral is where an organisation refrains from increasing its emissions and does this by finding sinks or carbon offsets to balance out its current level of emissions. Net Zero is where an organisation reduces its emissions where it can and only uses carbon sinks or carbon offsets to balance out the remainder.

Q. What is a carbon sink or store?

A natural or man-made reservoir, such as a forest, that stores carbon. [Soil carbon projects](#) store carbon in agricultural soil. You can read more about carbon sinks [here](#).

Q. What is carbon abatement and how much carbon abatement can I achieve?

Carbon abatement is either the removal of one or more greenhouse gases from the atmosphere or the avoidance of emissions of one or more greenhouse gases. For specific information on a property's carbon abatement potential through vegetation management, you can look at the [Full Carbon Accounting Model \(FullCAM\)](#) which provides accounting for GhGe from land-based activities in Australia.

Other information is available from [CSIROs LOOC-C tool](#) which allows land managers to assess options for carbon abatement through revegetation activities as well as assess co-benefit opportunities and identify pathways to obtaining additional information about undertaking a carbon farming project.

Q. Where can I go to find out more about the types of carbon offset projects in Australia?

Australia's Carbon Project Registry can provide you with information about carbon offset projects in Australia. You can find more about the Registry [here](#). For projects under the Emissions Reduction Fund click [here](#) with an interactive map [here](#).

Q: Why are activities that are considering feeding dietary additives not included in the Rebate?

This Rebate Pilot Program has as an alignment to the Emissions Reduction Fund Carbon Farming land sector methods that link to the activities that can be funded under the Tasmanian Landcare Action Grants.

Q. Who can I contact for further information?

FarmPoint – DPIPWE

Phone: **1300 292 292**

Email: farmpoint@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

Q. How do I submit my application?

Email: farmpoint@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

By post: Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Scheme

FarmPoint – DPIPWE

Po Box 46

Kings Meadows TAS 7249